

GAME FACE

INDIANS SCOREBOOK MAGAZINE

SHOWSTOPPER
KENNY LOFTON

Photo: Gregory Drezdson

2.50
AUGUST 1999 GF (LOFTON)



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Baseball Company
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2401 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-4003

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Publication Orders

To order a subscription or single issue of GAME FACE, please call (216) 420-GIFT or toll free at (800) 38-TRIBE.

Credits

Our thanks to all who assisted the Advertising and Publications staff of the Cleveland Indians in the development of this publication.

Publication Design & Layout

Zorc Photo & Design . . .

with contributions from Herip & Associates and ZZ Design

Photography

Cover and game action by Gregory Drezdzon (unless otherwise noted)

Printing

The Perlmutter Printing Company

**JACOBS FIELD ERA
CHAMPS**



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon



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by Bill Needle

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36 Versatile Star

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Big Ballplayer, Big Potential

by Bill Needle

Richie Sexson has been playing against "the big kids" for most of his life. Why should it be any different in the Major Leagues?

"I've always played with and against players who were older than me," Sexson said prior to batting practice before a July game at Jacobs Field. "I always tagged along with my older brother, John, Jr., who's about four years older than me. It helped me develop."

Sexson was a pretty big kid himself, standing 6'5" when he was an



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

Thanks to size and an older brother, **Richie Sexson** has always played against more experienced ballplayers — and many have shared their know-how with him.

eighth-grader. Perhaps it's best to refer to those who aided in his development as the "older" kids. Fact is, older players are still playing an important role in Sexson's development, albeit at the Major League level.

The 24-year-old Sexson (he'll turn 25 on December 29) is still playing against the "big kids" in this, his first full season, with the Indians. He's the Indians' youngest regular; and on the Tribe's 25-man active roster, only **Enrique Wilson**, **Bartolo Colon**, and **Jaret Wright** are younger.

"I haven't always been the best athlete at every level I've played, and that's a good thing," Sexson says. "Playing against guys who know more about the game, who are more mature, and who are willing to help has made me a better player whenever I've played."

The second son of **John Sexson**, a home builder, and his wife **Allison**, a school attendance officer, Richmond Lockwood Sexson was born in Portland,

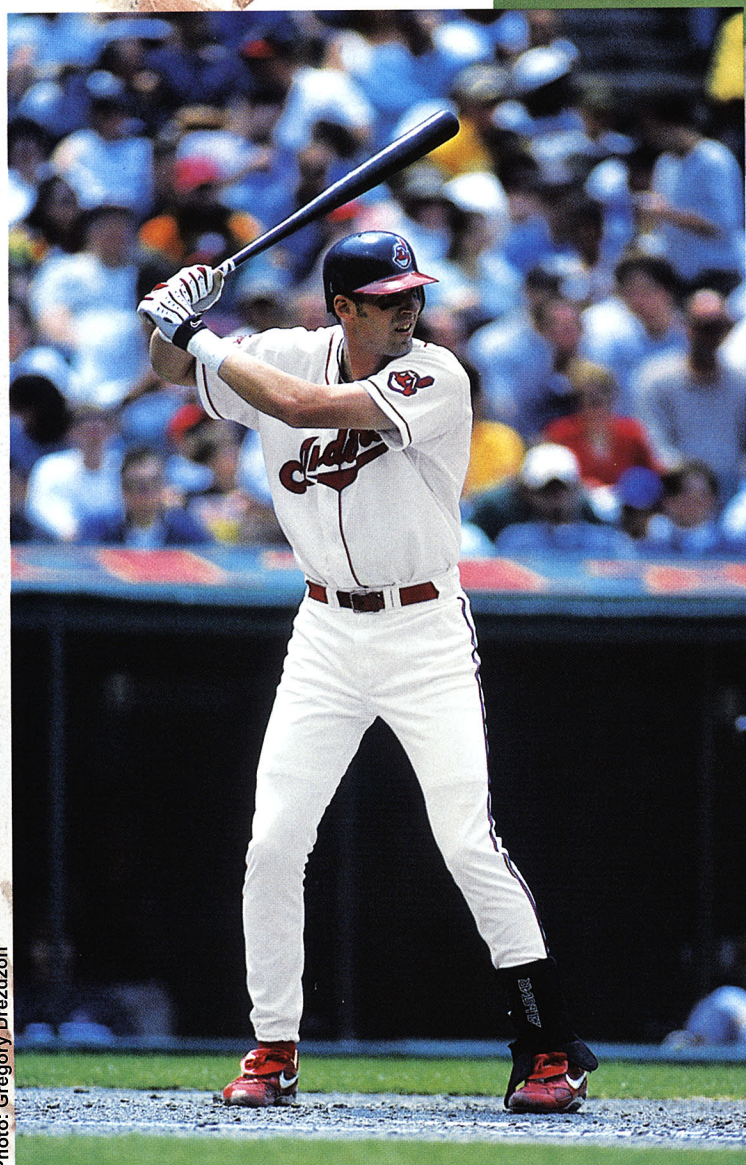


Photo: Gregory Drezdron

OR and given a name that could easily make people think he's "Richie Rich," rather than Richie Sexson.

"Yeah, there's a little money in our family — but not in our part of it," Sexson says. We were OK as I was growing up, but I wouldn't say that I was 'Richie Rich,' or anything like that."

Growing up in Brush Prairie, WA, in the Portland/Vancouver area, Sexson used the experiences that came from playing with the "big kids" to become an outstanding all-around athlete who earned all-state honors in basketball, football, and — of course — baseball.

"I'm a competitor . . . I absolutely love winning. And when you play for the Indians, you win. You're always in the race."

— Richie Sexson

"Washington State wanted me to be their punter," says the 6'7", 210-pound Sexson, "and I was an all-state wide receiver, too."

"And at my height, making all-state in basketball, I heard from all the northern PAC-10 schools about hoops. I thought about basketball, but I always wanted to be a professional baseball player. Besides, I had some experiences the summer after high school that gave me an idea of what Division I Basketball might have been like for me."

After graduating from Prairie HS, Sexson spent some time in a California Summer Basketball League where, as he remembers, there were some star performers from other states who treated Sexson a lot like Sexson has been

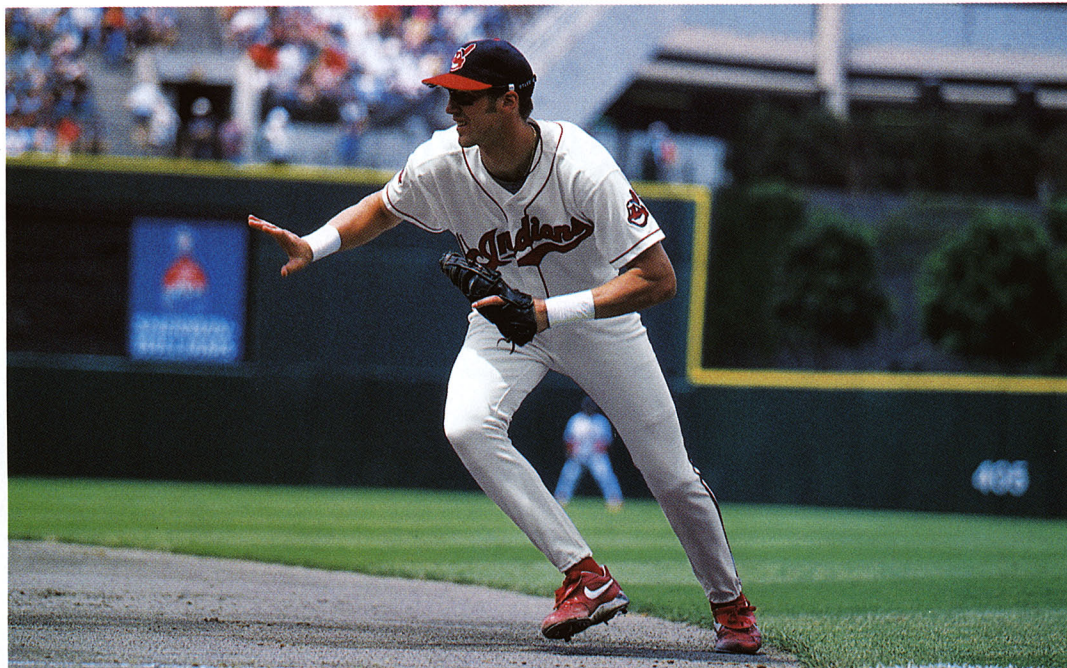


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

treating opposing pitchers throughout his baseball career.

"I played in a league with Jason Kidd and Chris Webber," Sexson says, "and I found out pretty quick where I fit in the big picture of college basketball. I remember I got dunked on a lot. At that point, I knew it would be baseball for me."

And baseball it has been. From 1993, when he signed with the Indians after being selected in the 24th round of the June draft, until today, Sexson has been regarded as one of baseball's brightest hitting prospects. His vast potential has made him the one position player opponents usually ask for when trade talks commence.

"I never said I'd rather be a part-time player here in Cleveland than hit three, four, or five in somebody else's lineup," Sexson says when asked about his status with the Tribe. "I'm a competitor. I like to play every day."

"But I absolutely love winning. And when you play for the Indians, you win. You're always in the race. And I've got a drawer full of championship rings at several levels — all as a member of the Indians' organization. Those rings mean winning."

Maturity plays an important part of winning in any sport at any level.

Sexson is pleased with the progress he has made in becoming a Major Leaguer between the ears, as well as between the lines.

"I'm a lot more mature now than I was when I first got to Cleveland," he says. "And I've got to credit these guys for helping," Sexson says with a nod toward an area of the dugout where **Omar Vizquel**, **Jim Thome**, **David Justice**, and **Travis Fryman** seem to be enjoying having the best record in baseball.

"Travis and I were talking just the other day about slumps. I've had them and he's had them and I'm still just in my first full year and will have more. But he said, 'People make such a big deal about O-for-16, or O-for-20. Doesn't anybody realize that O-for-15 means you've gone hitless in just three or four games out of 162? Three or four games just isn't that much.'"

While Sexson's understanding of Fryman's lesson indicates a good deal of professional maturity, Sexson also seems to possess a great deal of personal maturity.

For a minute, imagine being Richie Sexson. Twenty-four years old, tall, handsome, blonde hair when the mood strikes, brown when nature is allowed to take its course, a bigger paycheck than most men his age, a career any man of any

in the way he studies his art — the art of solidly hitting a round baseball with a round bat.

"You don't see Richie take many wild swings, or swing at many bad pitches," says **Mike Hargrove**. "When pitchers start to pitch him differently, he makes the right adjustments."

To Tribe hitting coach Charlie Manuel, Sexson is low-maintenance.

"Richie might miss a change-up or a breaking ball, but the next time, he'll lay off it and get a better pitch to hit. When I came back from my heart attack (last season), I didn't have to work much with Richie. I just sat back and watched him hit."

When you stand 6'7" and are a heralded prospect, you don't sneak up on anybody. Sexson might have done so last year in his 49 games in Cleveland. This year, well, as they say at Yankee Stadium, "Fageddaboutit!"

Sexson knows he's scouted and talked about by opponents as much as anybody in the Tribe lineup and his days of sneaking by in the Indians' parade of All-Stars are over. But he also knows he's capable of big production as part of a lineup capable of a record offensive output.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

"Richie might miss a change-up or a breaking ball, but the next time, he'll lay off it and get a better pitch to hit."

— Hitting Instructor Charlie Manuel

"When we're all healthy, there is nobody in our lineup you can pitch around," Sexson says. "I think this year's lineup can compare with the numbers the '95 team put up."

"And as for me, personally, I'm not making a prediction that I will, but I think I'm capable of something like 50 home runs a year, someday."

As a member of the 1999 Indians, Richie Sexson doesn't have to hit 50 homers for the club to succeed. That's a job for one of the "big kids," like Thome, Justice, or **Manny Ramirez**.

But one day, Richie Sexson — for one of the first times in his baseball life — will be one of the "big kids." And you get the feeling that not only will he deliver offense like Thome, Justice, and Ramirez, but he'll be just the kind of big kid he's learned so much from since he started tagging along with his older brother to the sandlots of the Pacific Northwest.



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Friday Lunch Parties at Jacobs Field!

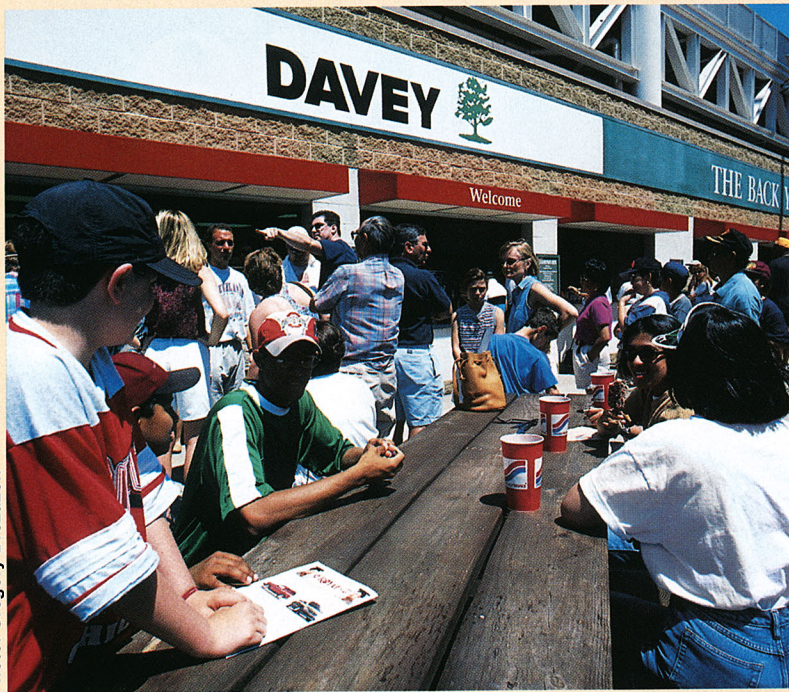


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Downtown lunch-goers are welcome to enjoy the **Davey Tree Back Yard Lunch Parties** during the Indians 1999 baseball season. Each Friday through August 27 (excluding July 2), the Back Yard at Jacobs Field will offer food, music, and lots of fun for all. Gate C, near the Bob Feller statue, will be open between the hours of 11 AM and 1:30 PM.



NEWSRADIO WTAM 1100 will broadcast live during the Friday Lunch Parties, and guest stations **WMVX**, **WMJI**, **WMMS**, and **WGAR** will also be on-site to join the action on select Fridays throughout the summer.

See you at the ballpark!

Did you ever wonder what it's like to be the voice of the Cleveland Indians?

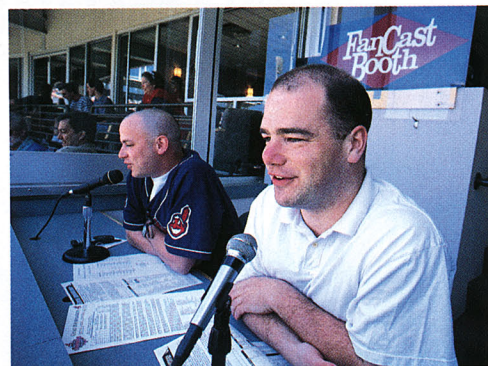
Here's your chance!

Visit the



FanCast Booth

- ◆ Call an inning of Tribe Baseball, just like Tom Hamilton, Dave Nelson, and Mike Hegan — complete with a broadcast booth view and press materials.
- ◆ All proceeds benefit Cleveland Indians Charities.
- ◆ Cost is \$30 for two broadcasters — \$20 for one (price includes an audio tape for each broadcaster and does not include game ticket).



Photos: Gregory Drezdson

Reservations: Please call the Community Relations department at (216) 420-4262 or stop by Guest Services, Section 116, during any home game and become a Major League broadcaster.



Jacobs Field Ground Rules

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: **PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following **"Ground Rules:"**

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

**— Dennis Lehman,
Indians Executive Vice
President of Business**

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-

or carry obscene, political, or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.

- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.



Photo: Gregory Drezdton

smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers and containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans,

- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.

- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one of the Guest Service Centers located at Section 121 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.



Versatile Star

by **Steve Herrick**

Kenny Lofton has brought Indians fans to their feet several times over the years with his accomplishments on the baseball field. Earlier this season, a Lofton gem nearly brought one of his teammates to his knees.

During a June 29 game against Minnesota at Jacobs Field, the Twins' **Todd Walker** hammered a **Dave Burba** pitch to deep left-center field. As the ball soared into the outfield, the hit appeared to be a double off the wall and the beginning of a Minnesota rally.

In the blink of an eye, Lofton changed all that. Shaded toward center field, he raced to the gap and, without time to set himself,

"It looked like he was 10 feet in the air. I couldn't believe he caught the ball."

— Pitcher Dave Burba

leaped in the air and made a spectacular grab against the wall. Making the catch more amazing was the fact that Lofton's leap drew him even with one of the scoreboard panels in the wall.

Nearly 400 feet away, Burba stood on the mound in amazement.

"It looked like he was 10 feet in the air," says Burba. "I couldn't believe he caught the ball."

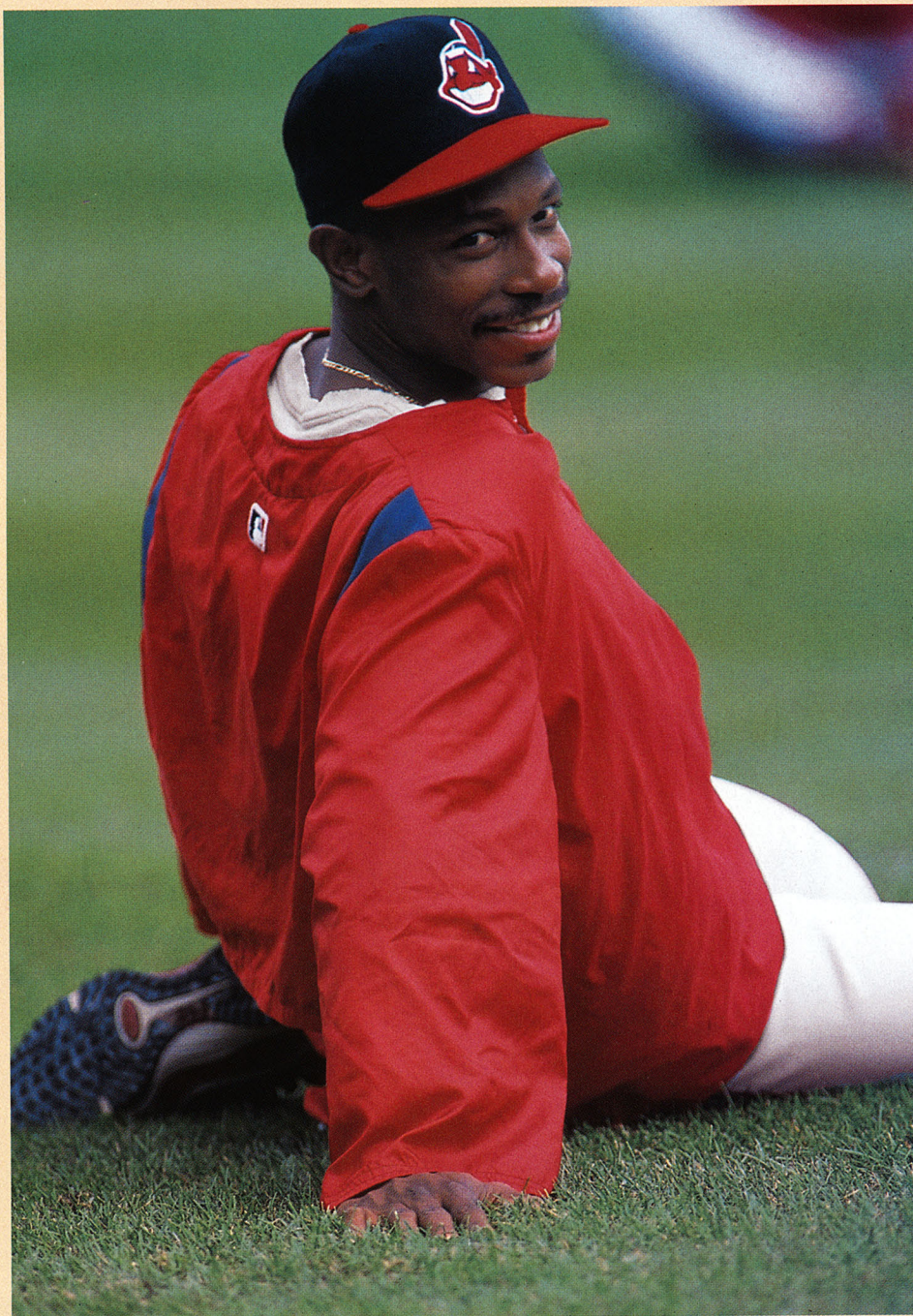


Photo: Gregory Drezdon

As the next hitter stepped to the plate, Burba turned toward center field, raised his hands and gave two "we're not worthy" bows to Lofton.

"I just wanted to show Kenny how I felt about what he did," says Burba. "That's something you definitely don't see every day."

While Burba appreciated the effort, Lofton tipped his cap to the pitcher.

"He bowed to me on the mound," says Lofton. "I said, 'OK, don't have too many more balls hit like that.'"

Tribe fans know this isn't the first time Lofton has made a spectacular catch to save the Indians. The



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

catches have become, well, almost routine.

"Sometimes you surprise yourself when you get so high in the air," Lofton says. "I've gotten high in the air before, so it's not unusual. It's a timing play."

Indians general manager **John Hart** didn't see Burba's bow. He was too busy marveling about the play.

"That was unbelievable," says Hart. "He's made a lot of great plays, but that is right up there. It takes a great athlete to do that. I don't know how he could jump any higher."

Lofton is becoming familiar with the 19-foot-high wall. A couple of weeks earlier, he robbed Oakland's **Mike McFarlane** of extra bases with a leaping grab at the *Sherwin-Williams* sign on the wall.

This season's catches fall in line with Lofton's gems from previous years. There was the catch he made with his back to home plate at Fenway Park in 1994. And Tribe fans will always remember the 1996 game when Lofton took away a home run from Baltimore's **B.J. Surhoff** by pulling the ball back from over the fence in dead-center at Jacobs Field.

Lofton is an all-around threat. He takes runs away from opponents with his glove and is a plus for the offense both at the plate and on the bases.



Photo: Gregory Drezdron

"It wasn't that good," Lofton says. "It hasn't won an *ESPY* [the annual awards handed out by *ESPN* for the best plays of the year]. Until it wins an *ESPY*, I don't know if it's the best."

Lofton knows spectacular defensive plays can change a game just as easily as a home run.

"A play like that can do something to take the air out of other team's sails," he says. "Any play that stops an opponent from getting a rally or a run is big."

While offense gets most of the time on the highlight shows, Lofton takes a lot of pride in what he can do with the glove.

"Defense is part of the game," he says. "It just depends on how people look at it. I look at defense as being part of the game."

"He's the best leadoff man in the game."

— General Manager John Hart on Lofton

Lofton won four straight Gold Gloves from 1993-96 during his first stint with the Indians. It's an award he would like to reclaim.

"That would be big," he says. "I thought I should have won it last year, but I didn't. I try to be consistent and, hopefully, the people who are looking at it will give me credit."

Lofton's teammates usually have something to say after one of his gems.

"They have comments all the time," he says. "Some guys have serious comments and some guys have joking comments. They all give me credit for what I've done. When someone else makes a good play, I do the same thing."

There's no doubt Lofton's contributions offensively and defensively

have been a big reason why the Indians are having such a successful season. His strong first half earned him his sixth All-Star Game appearance. It was the fourth time he had been elected by the fans.

"He's having a fabulous year," says Hart. "He's the best leadoff man in the game."

After being traded to Atlanta days before the 1997 season began, Lofton returned to Cleveland as a free agent that December. Last season he batted .282 with 101 runs scored, 54 stolen bases, 12 home runs, and 64 RBI. Lofton also led American League outfielders with 19 assists.

"This is more of what Kenny is all about," says Hart. "He had a good year last year, but this year he's more relaxed and balls are falling in."

"I'm not doing anything different," says Lofton. "I thought I was swinging the bat well last season, but the hits weren't falling in."

The Indians came within two outs of winning the World Series in 1997, but lacked a force from the leadoff spot all season. That's why Hart was so anxious to bring Lofton back to town.

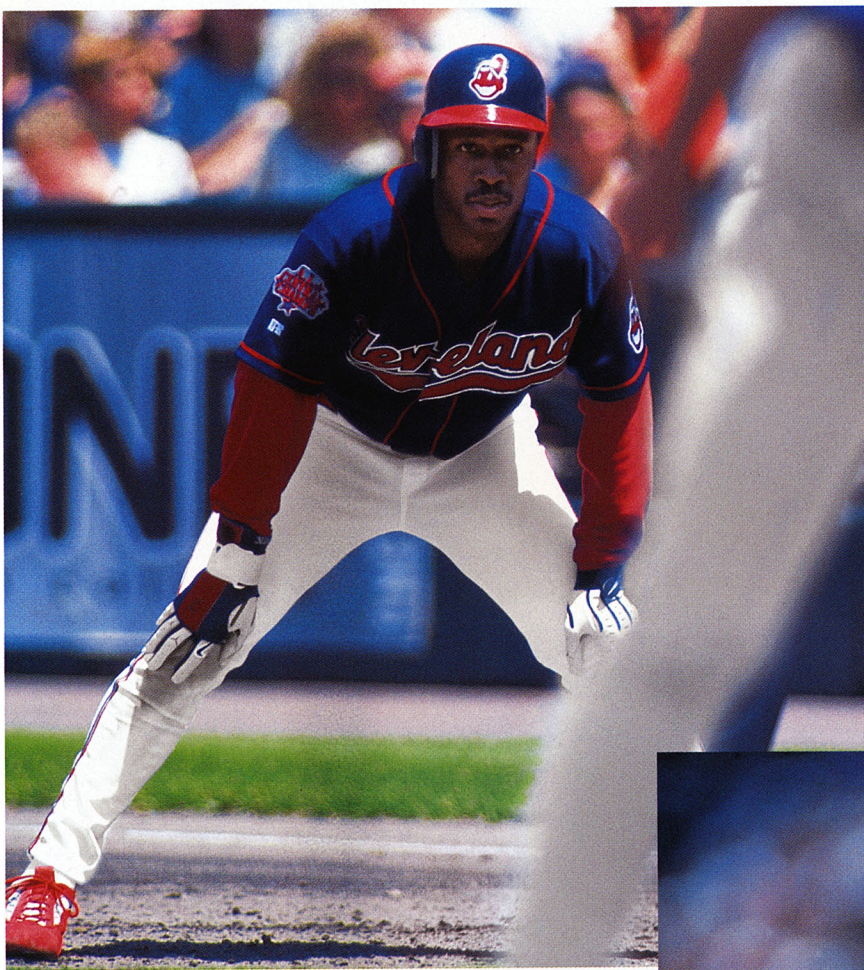
"He's a special player," says Hart. "He always has been a special player."

"Kenny's speed makes people do things they don't have to do," says Indians manager **Mike Hargrove**. "He distorts the game because of his speed."

Lofton's teams have been in the post season every year, starting with 1995. The Indians were in the



Photo: Gregory Drezdon



Lofton's achievements aren't limited to the field. He's been heavily involved with the Cleveland community since starting his career with the Indians in 1992.

Lofton has served as co-chairman of the *CEI Summer Reading Program*. He has also served as spokesperson for the *Cleveland/Larry Doby R.B.I.* (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City) program. Lofton visits the teams several times during the season and donates used

"You have to win it all to feel you've accomplished the ultimate feat."

— Kenny Lofton

World Series that season and won the American League Central Division title in 1996. The Braves advanced to the National League Championship Series in 1997 while the Indians made it to the American League Championship Series last season.

"I feel fortunate to be on a winning team each year," he says. "It's very important to be on a winning team. I've been to the playoffs and I've been to the World Series."

That would leave one more achievement.

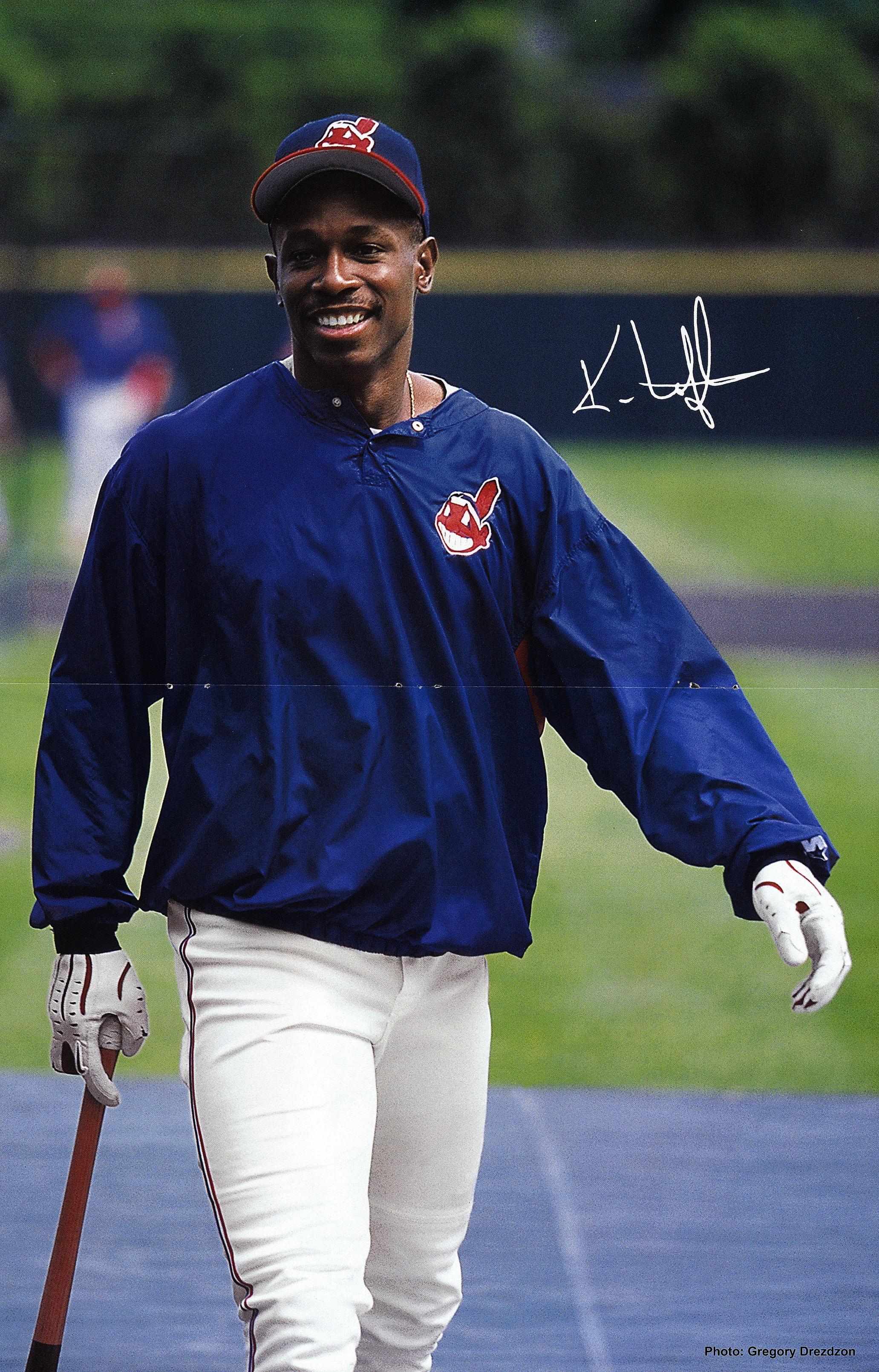
"Everyone's ultimate goal once you get in the playoffs is to win it all," says Lofton. "I haven't done that yet. You have to win it all to feel you've accomplished the ultimate feat."

Lofton went into this season with a .311 career average. He has topped the 50 stolen base mark in six of the last seven seasons and holds the Indians' club record for career steals.

Lofton, 32, came to the Indians in one of the best trades in franchise history. He was acquired from the Houston Astros with infielder **Dave Rohde** for catcher **Eddie Taubensee** and pitcher **Willie Blair** on December 10, 1991.



Photos: Gregory Drezdson



Handwritten signature

I'm doing," he says. "I started where they are. I didn't just jump to the big leagues by doing nothing. I tell them I got here with hard work and dedication."

Lofton finds that the kids are good listeners. "They ask all kinds of questions," he says. "You know what they say, kids can say the darndest things."

And the fact the kids are good listeners means a lot to Lofton. "Out of 20 kids, if one really takes it to heart, I think I have accomplished something," he says. "It makes me feel good when a kid takes something good out of what I have to say."

Lofton's presence in Cleveland provides a well-rounded experience for everyone. Not only do the kids get a smile from what he says, the fans who watch him play have a good chance to see something spectacular and, perhaps, a bow or two from a teammate.



Lofton finds it rewarding to give more than baseball excitement to the community. He has made it a point to talk to youngsters and provide food (as seen above) to those in need.

Smile!

And smile they did . . .

The Indians players and coaching staff were "up close and personal" with thrilled Tribe fans who lined the outfield warning track for a unique photo opportunity during the first-ever *Jacobs Field Camera Day*.



The first 2,500 fans through the turnstiles, who were eager to participate in this event,

were taken down the ballpark's Ramp A and received a single-use camera, courtesy of **Giant Eagle**, and led to the field.

Kenny Lofton, below, was among the players who took the time to shake hands and chat with the best fans in baseball for what was truly a moment to be remembered for a long, long time.



Photos: Gregory Drezdron



How To Score A Game

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

TEAM	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	==	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		===
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R H	1 1	1 2

Walked and was forced out at second (second baseman to shortstop)

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on a double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out — end of the inning.

Singled; later forced out at second (second baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (second baseman to shortstop to first baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder — end of inning.

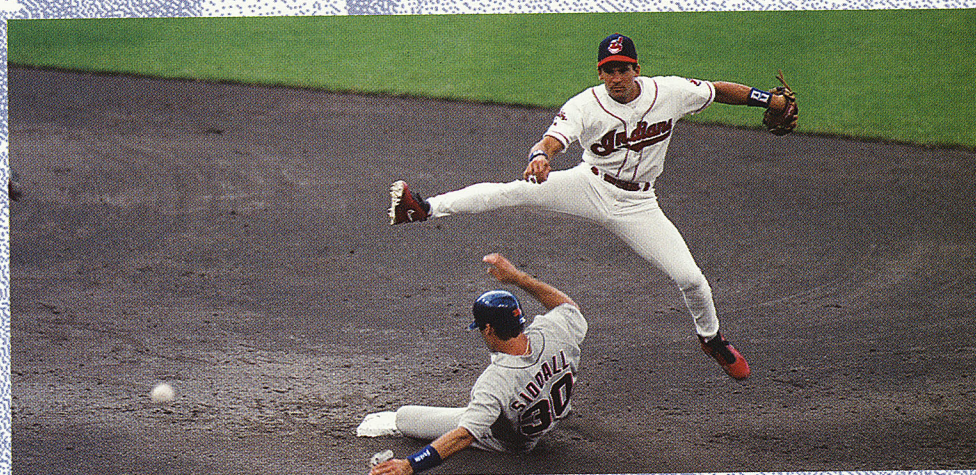


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Can You Score The Play Above?

The ball was hit to the second baseman, who threw it to the shortstop. The shortstop was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

Can You Read This Scoring Example?

The hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a pitcher's balk, and scored on a wild pitch.



Use Symbols As Shorthand...

Single	—
Double	==
Triple	===
Home Run	====
Error	E
Foul Fly	F
Double Play	DP
Fielder's Choice	FC
Hit by Pitcher	HP
Wild Pitch	WP
Stolen Base	SB
Sacrifice Hit	SH
Sacrifice Fly	SF
Caught Stealing	CS
Passed Ball	PB
Balk	BK
Struck Out	K
Base on Balls	BB
Forced Out	FO
Intentional Walk	IW

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1999 Cleveland Indians

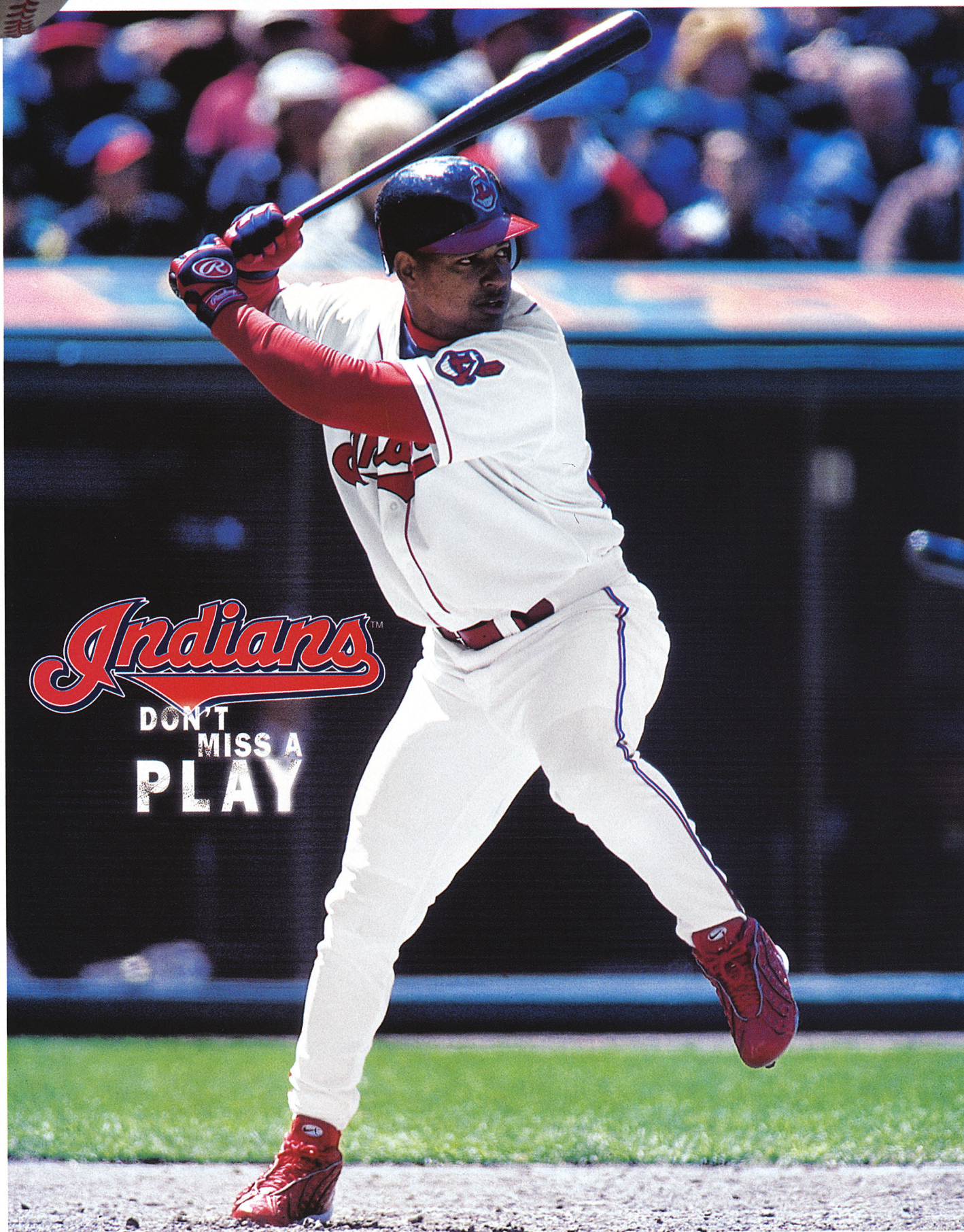


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

**Richie
SEXSON****44**Age: 24; born Dec. 29,
1974 in Portland, OR**Position:** In/OutfielderBats: R Throws: R
Ht: 6'7" Wt: 210**Paul
SHUEY****53**Age: 28; born Sept. 16,
1970 in Lima, OH**Position:** PitcherBats: R Throws: R
Ht: 6'3" Wt: 215**John
SMILEY***Disabled List***57**Age: 34; born Mar. 17,
1965 in Phoenixville, PA**Position:** PitcherBats: L Throws: L
Ht: 6'4" Wt: 210**Jim
THOME****25**Age: 28; born Aug. 27,
1970 in Peoria, IL**Position:** InfielderBats: L Throws: R
Ht: 6'4" Wt: 225**Omar
VIZQUEL****13**Age: 32; born Apr. 24,
1967 in Caracas, Venezuela**Position:** InfielderBats: S Throws: R
Ht: 5'9" Wt: 170**Enrique
WILSON****35**Age: 24; born July 27, 1975
in Santa Domingo, DR**Position:** InfielderBats: S Throws: R
Ht: 5'11" Wt: 170**Jaret
WRIGHT****27**Age: 23; born Dec. 29,
1975 in Anaheim, CA**Position:** PitcherBats: R Throws: R
Ht: 6'2" Wt: 230



Bottom of the Ninth



**Game-
Winning,
Grand Slam
Celebration**



Photos: Gregory Drezdon, all